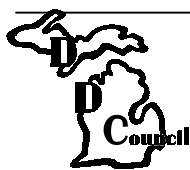


The



Monday Update

Vol. 1, No. 2 2004

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Don't you dare miss it!

Council fact-finding tour to listen in 7 Michigan towns

The DD Council is going on the road this summer! They're coming to a town near you!

Why the road trip? To learn from consumers, family members and other advocates how systems can be changed to make community living more rewarding, about barriers that keep people with developmental disabilities from realizing their full potential.

These informal talk sessions will also give people a chance to learn about opportunities and changes in their own communities, from advocacy groups and policymakers.

Part of the plan

Gathering public input has always been a Council priority. In this case, as part of its multi-year strategic state plan, Council and its staff will hit the road in August, September and October.

Please plan to attend a session. The team is especially interested in talking with people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your voice heard. Here is the schedule:

Gaylord - Aug. 23 – Best Western Hotel, 833 W. Main St., 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Newberry – Aug 24 – Elks Club, 109 Newberry Ave., 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Houghton – Aug. 26 - Best Western Franklin Square Inn, 820 Sheldon, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Grand Rapids – Sept. 15 - Creston High School, 1720 Plainfield, NE, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Detroit – Sept. 17 – Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 W. Chicago Blvd., 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saginaw – Sept. 20 – Transition Center, 3860 Fashion Square Blvd., 9:30 a.m. to noon

East Lansing – Oct. 5 – Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., 9:30 a.m. to noon

Will you need accommodations? If so, make certain you contact the DD Council office – phone is 517-334-6123; email is vincenttr@michigan.gov – at least one week before the session you plan to attend.

Don't forget to bring to the meeting your comments, your concerns and your questions. They are the most valuable things

anyone has to offer the Council as it plans its future activities.

Please join us. See you there!!!

Council's June meeting all business and fun

The DD Council's first business meeting/family fun day was a great success, as can be seen in these photos. The day was Tuesday, July 13.

The Council's Family Support Work Group sponsored the day, which was basically a regular DD Council meeting in an East Lansing city park. Around this meeting were games, prizes, exhibits, food and fun. Over 150 consumers, advocates, professionals, Council members and friends attended the gathering on a beautiful July day.



Family fun day fans come in all sizes.



Many trees keep picnic tables in the shade.





Council members and staff get down to business in the park's pavilion.



The chow line is a popular attraction. The burgers are great!



Kids enjoy a visit from the East Lansing Fire Department.



Still others enjoy a simpler meal.



Council members confer over burgers and brownies. Clowns entertained kids of all ages.





Bingo, anyone?



There's more of us on the Internet

Just a reminder to regularly check in with the Council's web page at michigan.gov/ddcouncil.

There, you will find updated committee and work group meeting schedules, as well as added information on Council grants and requests for proposals.

What is the answer to better transit for Michigan?

Transportation, public transportation that is, makes a difference for everyone. If you can't drive your own car, for whatever reason, then the bus or van becomes your link with the community.

This affects senior citizens and residents with developmental disabilities, certainly, but transportation is really a concern of everyone in this state.

No group is more aware of the need for improved transportation in Michigan than the DD Council.

The Council has a broad reach when it comes to transit issues: various members serve on transit change-oriented groups; staff and members manage the Council's Transportation Work Group, a statewide collection of transportation advocates; and Council grants.

Vouchers? A great idea!

This year, the Council approved a grant that may change the availability and cost of Michigan public transportation for people with developmental disabilities. It's a system of vouchers that a person can use for

any form of transportation available in his or her community. Bus, van, taxi, neighbor – any driver can accept a voucher from the passenger and turn it in for cash.

Public transportation is the way to get to work, to the movies, to the lake, to the store and the mall. Available public transportation is generally not costly to the consumer – it is paid for with federal and state money.

When public transportation is not readily available, life can become more difficult. Want a job? Forget it, unless there is some way other than the bus to get to work. Doctor's appointment? Too bad, unless a kindly neighbor or family member is willing to do the driving.

According to advocates in a DD Council-supported program – Everyone Travels, from UCP Michigan – more than 30 of the state's 83 counties have restricted transportation service. That is nearly half.

The more rural the county, the fewer transportation options for residents. Still, two-thirds of Michigan's providers of transportation offer service outside the cities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Upper Peninsula.

Time and money

In some ways, a state's well being can be measured by its public transportation. Efficient and reliable transportation means not only making it to a doctor's appointment on time, but economic stability as well.

Residents are able to travel to and from jobs on a regular schedule, and employers can rely on that. Retail businesses can count on public transit bringing them potential customers.

Socially speaking, people are able to interact with institutions and other people by being able to get around the community when they choose, and at a reasonable price for both customer and taxpayer.

Generally, there are two types of transportation services. The first is fixed routes, such as a bus route or even the Amtrak train route that runs through the state. The bus or train arrives at a stop or station at the same time each day...or at least it's supposed to!

Getting more specific

The second type of transportation is "demand responsive." In this case, a person calls the transport company and says he or she needs a ride to a certain address. Their bus or van would come to the house or apartment, or meet the rider somewhere close by.

Another version of demand responsive is "paratransit." This is also an important service for seniors and those with disabilities. It is "curb-to-curb."

Most types of transit are found in both city and rural settings. However, transit services tend to become thinner away from city streets.

With many types of local public transit, it is the "local" part that may cause problems getting from point "a" to point "b." That may be because the bus or van won't cross district or county lines. Maybe that other district county has its own transit program, but it doesn't serve other counties, either. Too bad if a public transit-reliant person's doctor is just over the county line.

There's also duplication

That is just selfish and wasteful local and state politics talking. In some communities, two agencies might provide transit resources, or money, to transport the same customers and clients around to the same location.

Coordination is a solution that could benefit all concerned. There are no rules in the public transportation game. Today, one

state agency's van or bus may sit idle in a parking lot when not in use. That may be most of a day! Why can't another agency in the same community that has day travelers use the van or bus when idle?

These problems must be solved on the local level with input from the people who use the transportation systems. Groups of community citizens known as Local Advisory Councils (LACs) are supposed to advise the area's public transportation authorities – the governmental groups that own the buses. There are many excellent LACs.

RICCs are a great asset

The Council's Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee's (RICCs) – local systems change advocacy at its best - are great staging areas for grassroots transportation advocacy. RICCs are immersed in a variety of local and state issues, including local transit problems.

An effective match is joining the aggressive advocacy of RICC members with the organizational advantages of the LACs. A good example of this is happening right now in Livingston County.

In addition to politics and waste, the main public transportation problem is just plain money. Transportation systems never pay for themselves. Tax dollars do. As with most other programs that rely on tax dollars, there is never enough public transportation money. Getting more dollars for transportation is a full-time job.

This can only be done by changing the law that sends money to transit agencies. They are supposed to get 10 percent of the state's transportation budget, but they now only receive 8.5 percent. That additional 1.5 percent would help a great deal.

With the money the state does have to give to transit agencies, there is just so much to go around each year. If one transit provider

needs more, that money comes out of the allotment for another provider. As mentioned, the state legislature is considering cutting funds to transit services, so this problem needs careful attention. The Council has demonstrated leadership in tracking budget issues generated by managers of public funds.

Making a difference

Grant projects such as UCP Michigan's Everyone Travels, combined with the DD Council's Transportation Work Group, are making an impact on transportation needs awareness in Michigan. Everyone Travels has been extremely effective in raising awareness.

In its three years, the grant project has presented five workshops, appeared before the Michigan Transportation Commission, acquired support of key members of the state House, and helped push through legislation to stabilize transit funding.

While Everyone Travels will continue its excellent work under another grantor, the DD Council is not resting on the success of this grant program. Under the right leadership, the transportation voucher project should prove just as effective.

A local issue

Everyone Travels is a project with a statewide scope. But getting people from point "a" to "b" is very much a local issue and five local grant projects have emphasized this. They are:

- Changing Transportation for Changing Lives (Livingston County)
- Concerned Citizens for Improved Transit (Kent County)
- Muskegon Action Coalition
- Leaders for Action (Genesee County)

- TRIP Coalition (Lake, Mason, and Oceana Counties)

The projects have enjoyed varying degrees of success in improving local transit conditions but each group has made a difference in its respective community.

Behind the voucher idea is the Transportation Work Group, a collection of dedicated advocates, Council members and staff whose main objective is to see transportation systems improve for everyone in Michigan.

The work group monitors the activities of such organizations as the State Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee. Of recent concern to the Council's Transportation Work Group was the committee's talk of possibly reducing funds targeted for transportation by millions of dollars a year!

Please join us!

The Transportation Work Group is creating the general program for the Council's Sept. 14 meeting. Grassroots advocacy and a high-profile transit speaker are being considered for the agenda. Everyone is welcome at Council meetings. The Sept. 14 meeting is in Lansing. For more information, call the Council office.

It is always important to look at transportation issues through a wide-angle lens. UCP Michigan's Everyone Travels did just that in a series of three publications in league with the Michigan Land Use Institute.

In one publication – "The Regional Ride" – the state faces major regional transportation and environmental problems as highways become choked with traffic. Rapid bus systems or light railroad trains are two methods of easing the traffic gridlock and building sprawl.

The publication concludes by calling on bold metropolitan leadership and committed state policymakers to build a “world-class public transportation system” in the state.

Make a difference

What can you do? People with developmental disabilities, family members, other advocates, senior citizens... anyone who wants to see public transit improved in Michigan, must add their voices to the chorus. The first step might be joining your LAC. This is the way you can make a difference in your own community right away.

Another excellent way to make your voice heard is to join the Council’s Transportation Work Group. They are always looking for new members from all parts of the state. It’s a friendly, active group of Michigan residents with the same goal: improved transportation for all!

To learn more about your LAC and the Transportation Work Group, contact Tandy Bidingert at the DD Council. Her phone number is 517-334-7355, email is: bidingert@michigan.gov.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Education Work Group

May 18:

Members Present: Loreena Parks, Lynne Tamor, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Marta Hampel, Jane Spitzley, Andre Robinson, Bud Kraft

Members Present by Phone: Jane Reagan, Lauri Stein, Cheryl Cormier-Kuhn, Monique Bonifas

Welcome and introductions were done.

Reagan motioned to approve the April 20, 2004 minutes, Parks seconded. Motion approved.

Kids Count Report was discussed. It is credible information. It was suggested to write a feedback letter to Kids Count from the DD Council. Reagan is willing to draft the letter. It is a small report, more information may improve. Taken from census data and other sources. DOE and DDI – December 1 is when Michigan data is collected for special education purposes.

The group reviewed the Education Work Group Work Plan. Some of the descriptions of activities are not accurate.

“Grantee” is confusing, should break out to be specific, MSU, UCP, Family Networks, etc.

Work group needs to develop projects for upcoming strategic plan. Full council does not understand all education issues, urgency, and importance. Multiple projects need to be developed for the upcoming 5-year strategic plan now.

MSU is looking around the state for a model of early childhood settings. Tamor took material from MSU to the TASH Conference and the material was very well received. Need to check on funding cycle for this project.

Parent Networks – Stein stated a library is being established.

The workshop has been rescheduled to October 13. A website is currently under development.

Education of Policymakers

Bud sent out request for hearing on HB 5044 where it would permit parents and students to voluntarily identify themselves as being in the special education program to encourage networking.

Mark McWilliams has also been helpful. HB 5044 –Bonifas is sending a letter as well.

State Board of Education Universal Education Referent group has one more meeting.

Bud will check with Gwen Pierce to see if she submitted a proposal to MI Association of School Board and ask about letters of support if needed.

A twelve-person group is setting up action teams – ad hoc committee by State Board of Education.

Want to streamline communication in the Education Work Group. Bonifas requested a list of everyone on the Council with contact information.

Get assistive technology information from Jane Spitzley to Parent Networks and add to links. For assistive technology to be of the greatest benefit, families need to:

1. Connect with information
2. Distribute information to families about equipment and policies of Medicaid, schools, and insurance companies

Regarding Assistive Technology, add information to outcomes: This may lead to

an RFP. Assistive technology needs to be considered as a separate strategy.

The council approved the project for an Education Summit. The work group members want to send a letter to invite persons to summit steering committee. Spend DD Council money on planning and follow-up. The grantee will need to find partners to hold summit with, where the council pays no more than 50%. Michigan Department of Education or foundations may be potential partners.

University space, rooms, and food may be used as in-kind match.

There was talk of a 30-member steering committee with a smaller core attending regularly.

Summit is doing, not receiving. Possible members can be forwarded to Bud. Make sure all prongs from work group are represented. Resource ideas from CEN Resource Directory. Letter will be out in the next 4-6 weeks.

Start planning for October 12 Council meeting. Education Work Group has responsibility for the council agenda that day.

Stein reported that the referent group believes any Universal Education policy will be very broad. Some members are not very receptive regarding removal of segregated programs. Ideas from the referent group will be used to develop education policy, if adopted.

The referent group has broke into 5 smaller groups.

Bill S 1248 passed regarding reauthorization of IDEA. Send letter to Debbie Stabenow for voting against the bill.

Next meeting: June 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the DD Council office to make plans for the October meeting and continue review of the work plan. The group felt a 3-hour meeting is needed.

Family Support Work Group

May 19:

Members Present: Abby Wells, Laura Mahank, Karen Longanecker, Bud Kraft, Sharon Newcomb-Kase, Carolyn Allston-Smith, Aaron Sherbin (phone)

Welcome and Introductions were done.

The April 21, 2004 minutes were approved by consensus.

C.A.U.S.E. information was copied and distributed to group members.

Bud lead discussion about the July 13 Council meeting and what has been done:

- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- John M. Patriarche Park
- Food Services Reserved by Old Country out of DeWitt: Grilled meat, Potato Salad, Desserts
- Contacted No June Council Meeting
- 10:45 a.m. Council meeting will be held before the activities
- Introduction: activities between children with disabilities, siblings, and parents:
 - Clown
 - Roger Philips from CAUSE for juggling and referral

- Patricia Keller from CAUSE
- Bridges4Kids committed to set up for Early On
- Michigan Protection and Advocacy to cover legal issues, self-advocacy, and referral
- Jeff Deedrick from Michigan Assistive Technology Resource to bring information and promotional material

- Need to bring own picnic/card tables
- Name tags
- Wrist bands
- T-Shirts for volunteers
- Board of Water and Light for donating water
- Contact stores to donate ice cream and popsicles
- Labels for allergies

Diagram of the Park and Set Up

- Need visual displays for directions to park
- Designate handicap parking locations
- Designated drop off location
- No stakes in the grass
- We have use of the fields
- Rent picnic tables for \$2.50 half day \$3.75 full day
- One Handicap accessible restroom at each location
- Charcoal will be present because of the built in charcoal grills in the park
- Age division of activities
 - Basketballs
 - Volleyballs
 - Softballs
 - Magician
 - Face Painting

- Drawing Prizes
 - Frisbees
 - Nurf-Balls
 - “Kids on the Block”
- Puppets

Senate passes the Family Opportunity Act on May 6 which provides for Medicaid Buy-In to the families of children with disabilities.

Organizations Contacted to Set Up Display Booths:

OSE – Carolyn Allston-Smith

- Jan Chaney, Parent Advocate at OSE, to bring parent support group info. Parent-to-Parent resources

Lansing Area Parents (LAP) – Carolyn Allston-Smith

- Judy from Respite

Respite – Laura Mahank

- Family and Children Services: general information about Respite
- Residential Opportunities Inc.: drop-in social activities also to bring in staff to supervise

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition – Bud Kraft

- Norma Bauer and Kathryn Wyeth as resources

Easter Seals – Aaron Sherbin

- To participate in the workshop

Family Support Subsidy – Sharon Newcomb-Kase

Sibs Shops – Sharon Newcomb-Kase

- Having difficulty contacting them
- Bud will try to contact someone

D.A. Blodgett – Sharon Newcomb-Kase

- Dennis Jackubik
- Special Needs Adoption

DCH table – Sharon Newcomb-Kase

- Cheryl Thelen

Childrens Special Health Care Services – Sharon Newcomb-Kase
- Matt Richison

Youth Leadership – Bud Kraft

- Duncan Wyeth
- Mentor Volunteers

Money Follows the Person – Bud / Tandy

- 2 Resource Books and Policy

Self-Determination – Laura Mahank

- Ottawa Co.
- Fax info. to Bud

Recreation – Abby Wells

- Denny’s Bicycle Shop

Community Living Support – Carolyn Allston-Smith /Laura Mahank

Home Help – Bud Kraft

- Jim Nye

Bud to contact the following:

- Allegan County about Guardianship
- Roanne Chaney from Home Health
- Jim Nye from Family Independence Agency
- Youth Leadership: Duncan Wyeth bring people of color
- Money Follows the Person
- Work with Abby Wells on Recreation
- MARO
- East Lansing Public Libraries
- Norma Bauer and Kathryn Wyeth
- Email people to bring board games
- Check on face paints: Laura, Tracy, and Mitzi

Contact MGM or other Casino’s for donating already used cards – Abby Wells

Keep track of RICC attendance. For those RICCs that do not attend, we will send information packets to.

Tracy call Wall-Mart for toys, Nurf-Balls, Frisbees, Balls

Ducks on table for access with a shallow bin for water

Cards on page 149 for games and prizes

800 numbers for resources to hand out

Map showing locations of tables and times

Check with library to have a reader for kids 5 and under

Request freebee nurse on site

Check on database of sign-up sheets

Carolyn Allston-Smith is asking for donations for toys and balls

Look at toolbox

Table Groups:

Respite/ Support Station

- ROI
- LAP
- Easter Seals
- Bridges4Kids
- ARC
- USP
- Developmental Disability Institute
- Crystal Ray
- Black Child and Family Institute – Ernie Boone

Recreation and Assistive Technology Station

- Assistive Technology from MATR
- Face Painting
- Games
- Floating Ducks

- Mats and Rec. balls
- Petting Zoo – Carolyn
- Paws for Cause

Financial Station

- Medicaid Buy-in
- SSA & SSI
- Family Support Subsidy
- Home Help
- Micro-Enterprise
- Futures Planning
- Wills and Trusts

Self-Advocacy & Legal Station

- Guardianship
- Self-Determination
- Early On
- ADA – Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns
- CAUSE
- Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service

Multicultural Committee

June 14:

I. Call to Order : 10:15

II. Approval of Minutes – approved

III. Approval of Agenda – approved

IV. Introductions – not needed – Yuself, Angie, Pam, Mitzi, Terry present; Rick joined
and left as able due to conference attendance.

V. Old Business –

A. July Full Council Meeting topic ideas - Pam
The park is accessible and located on Saginaw and Alton streets. The theme for

the day is “Family Support”. P&A will have an information table at the pic nic – Angie will check with a dance troupe regarding their availability to perform, as will Yuself with another group. Magician Charles Ford will not be performing – he has gone semi-professional, necessitating having the time and resources to go through an agent, pay for his time, etc. Time is too short to arrange anything else, as performances/activities must be on the schedule by 6/17/04.

Full Council meeting will be abbreviated, will begin at 10:45. Activities for children, lead by adults/teens, are planned during this time. There are family activities planned throughout the day, including a workshop for kids who have a sibling with a disability and face painting. T-shirts are on sale now for \$10. Lunch will be catered. In order to have lunch, people must call/e-mail reservations with the number and ages of persons attending.

Next steps: 1) Angie and Yuself will check on the availability of dance troupes/performers and let Mitzi know the outcome. 2) Members who will be attending will make their RSVPs to Mitzi ASAP.

B. Potential RICC partnerships and letter to RICCs – Larry – unknown outcomes as Larry and Corrie were not present.

Next steps: Mitzi will try to find out whether a letter was sent.

VI. New Business – 10:50

- A. Lansing Mayor’s Initiative on Race and Diversity – Mitzi attended this event. Attendees were divided into groups of approximately 12 participants of

differing race, gender and age. The intent is that these groups will continue to meet for 5 sessions, which they will schedule themselves, addressing specific topics from a book to be distributed to participants. The goal is for those who participate to then begin new groups themselves. New groups are to be formed on an on-going basis. If the initial groups carry over into the fall due to scheduling issues, a Committee member may have to fill in for Mitzi, as she will probably be unable to continue beyond the summer months. The session opened with the dinner portion, which was preceded by a Christian-oriented prayer. At least one participant was offended by this. There was only one person with a visible disability present and Norma Bowers of MDRC was the only other DD Council-affiliated person present. The organizers told Mitzi that they had not specifically done outreach to the disability community. Rather than try to hold a Committee meeting the day before the picnic and possibly force people to choose one or the other, the Committee will meet briefly to follow-up on this meeting’s action items at 1:00 pm at the P&A booth.

Next steps: Mitzi will: 1) provide the e-mail address so that other Committee members can sign up for newly formed groups; 2) let the committee know if someone must take her place; 3) provide updates regarding the initiative; 4) bring the book upon which the groups are based for

Committee members to see. Rick and Terry will make sure that the next meeting notice includes information regarding the move of the meeting to the picnic.

B: New Work Plans will be due soon to Council. Multicultural Committee comments need to be given to the workgroups and committees before they present new plans to the full Council so that they may be considered.

There is now a Committee member on each of the other workgroups and committees, so that will help to develop plans which address issues related to diversity. The Committee needs to have a plan ready to present as well. Feedback to the other committees and workgroups and diversity in the RICCs have been identified by the Committee and Council as key tasks for the Committee.

The RICCs will probably be having a conference/meeting regarding the need for diversity in their memberships in the fall.

The Committee will continue to offer to assist in that event. It was decided that the best way to address the charge of the Council to the Committee would be to focus this coming year on outreach to build diversity – at the Council level, in Council programs and events, and in the RICCs and to work toward insuring diversity through the Committee's presence as a resource for the Council, the other workgroups and Committees and the RICCs.

A number of activities were suggested as means to address these goals: 1) attending regional RICC meetings to discuss what each RICC sees as issues related to diversity in their communities and organizations and following that discussion with a

questionnaire that gets to more specific information regarding diversity and participation in the local RICCs. The Committee recognizes that each local RICC is dealing with unique situations and may define diversity differently based on the make-up of the community, as well as the fact that those who attend the larger, Lansing-based meetings may not reflect the actual make-up of the local group.

It would seem to make sense, then, to ask the RICCs how they are doing in terms of building a membership that reflects the community and what, if any, problems they are identifying; 2) developing some information materials specifically targeting persons with newly acquired and/or secondary disabilities that could be distributed to social workers, patient advocates, etc in trauma centers and rehabilitation units – this would allow outreach to persons who are in need of support and not already involved in/fatigued with organizations, meetings, etc and potentially bring new people into Council-related activities.

Due to the burden of health and safety risks being more heavily borne by communities of color, it is also reasonable to expect that these efforts would allow us to invite more diverse persons into the Council-related activities.

Ideally, the mailing of this information would be followed by either a phone call or a meeting with the contact person at the unit to which the materials were sent.

The Committee may want to ask the local RICCs if they would be interested in conducting this follow-up as part of their outreach activities. It was also suggested that RICC meetings and/or other Council related meetings function as a support to

persons with disabilities, even if support is not the focus, and that perhaps these should be included in local listings of support groups.

Once the media “copy” was developed, the Committee could ask the local RICCs where each community places such listings and whether the RICCs would like their meetings included, as well as whether they would like to do the follow-up as part of their outreach activities.

Other Committee activities to address the Committee’s charge will include providing formal feedback regarding the annual plans of other work groups and committees in terms of having addressed the needs of culturally diverse persons; informal feedback through member participation on those other work groups and committees and member participation in proposal reviews and similar Council activities.

Next steps: Mitzi will follow-up to provide a summary of the comments the Committee made on this year’s plans in order to have these in hand when the new plans are developed and when members participate in the other groups. Terry will begin to rough out a plan for the Committee that reflects the activities discussed at this meeting.

VII. Up-dates and Announcements:
Organizational up-dates and announcements;

contacts/activities with other groups related to Committee goals; new consultant/provider contacts with multicultural expertise; conferences/seminars/etc.

relevant to Committee goals/activities/members –

A. The Blue Water – Wayne County CIL will be hosting the Road to

Independence Picnic on Belle Isle on July 30, 2004 from 10 am to 5 pm. It is hoped that this first event will be the beginning of an annual event. Information booths/tables will be set up by various other providers, organizations, etc. Information is available by contacting Ms. Greenlaw at 313-577-2601.

B. The Christo Rey Health Fair is scheduled for September 25, 2004. Information tables are also available at this event, and are available without charge. Mitzi said the Committee should host a table again this year.

Adjourned at 12:10

Public Policy Committee

April 13:

Members Present: Ellen Weaver, Todd Koopmans, Andy Farmer, Andre Robinson, Jane Reagan, Robyn Saylor, Tracy Vincent, Rick Van Horn, Tandy Bidingier, Bud Kraft

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of March 9, 2004 Minutes
3. Michigan Mental Health Legislative Update
 - a. Detroit Wayne Community Mental Health
 - b. Recipient Rights
 - c. Mental Health Commission
4. State Updates:
 - Home Help Advocacy Efforts – Speaker Norm DeLisle
 - MI Budget: Revenue Enhancements, Tax Cuts
 - Medicaid Comments
5. Federal Updates:
 - MiCASSA
 - No Child Left Behind
 - Medicare Prescription Program
 - 2004 Election

6. PPC Work Plan – Final Revisions
7. Other

Welcome and introductions were done.

Reagan motioned to approve the March 9, 2004 minutes. Koopmans seconded. Motion approved.

Michigan Mental Health Legislative Update
Senate health hearings are currently taking place. It is a very controversial issue due to a power struggle. Legislation has been proposed to create a public authority. The issue may be resolved by the legislature. There are five to six proposed bills. The Board is suing the county. The Arc Detroit is in support of the authority and Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom and Sen. Shirley Johnson are in support of the legislation. The DD Council staff will keep the PPC informed of the outcome.

Recipient Rights

The Common Disability Agenda is being re-written and the DD Council is participating in the re-write.

Mental Health Commission

Mental health in MI needs reform. There are five focus meetings across the state to give public testimony. People will be able to provide written testimony as well. We need to get the word out to the RICCs and consumers to give testimony.

Koopmans motioned to write a letter that include key points such as Office of Recipient Rights, parity, and dual-eligibility. Reagan seconded. Motion approved. Koopmans suggested at the next PPC meeting to put together the Public Policy Committee's own position on parity and have the DD Council staff to help.

Revenue Enhancements

Legislators have been on a two-week vacation that ended this week. Nothing further has happened. Podiatry, dental, chiropractic, and hearing services for the poor are being put back in the budget but we do not know where they are getting the money to support these services. Bidinger referred the members to an article "Battle to close \$1-billion state deficit only half over."

Medicaid Comments

The DD Council has been given opportunities to respond to internal documents regarding Medicaid. The DD Council provided comments re: Nursing Home Care/Long-Term Care documents and as a result, received a letter of invitation to provide public comment and invite others to participate to look over the Long-Term Care Proposal.

The Medicaid Manual is now available on CDROM and the Department of Community Health's website.

State Updates:

Home Help Advocacy Efforts

Guest Speaker Norm DeLisle, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, gave an overview of the Home Help program, how it works, and shared individual's stories on how the cuts affect them. Home Help is Michigan's Personal Care Program under Medicaid and is about 1/9th the cost of nursing homes in Michigan. Home Help is a program to keep people out of institutions. If you would like copies of the Home Help information shared at the meeting, please contact the DD Council at 517-334-6123.

DCH sent a letter to the FIA Director stating that the department is "temporarily suspending the implementation of the Adult Home Help policy changes implemented

March 1, 2004 until further notice.” It was discussed to respond to the department’s letter.

Individual’s services were already being cut off or reduced. There could be a class action lawsuit due to the state giving legally inadequate notices. Many appeals were filed.

Federal Updates:

MiCASSA

MiCASSA is not expected to move at this time. MiCASSA is a federal bill. It may pass, however there is no money behind it to support it. Members were referred to a MiCASSA handout that a DD Council staff member received at the Governmental Affairs Seminar in Washington D.C.

No Child Left Behind

In order to teach in a topic area, a person needs to be “highly qualified” in that area. This requirement is causing nationwide problems.

IDEA

Re-authorization has been delayed due to this being an election year. It may not get reauthorized this session.

Medicare Prescription Program

If a person is dually eligible, they are not going to be eligible for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card. Members were referred to three Medicaid handouts for review: The Medicare Prescription Drug Law, Medicare At A Glance, and Medicare Advantage.

2004 Election

Sen. Debbie Stabenow is reported to be 1 of about 21 vice-president running-mates for Kerry. There is a teleconference on April 4

from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. to “get out the vote” at the CACIL and SILC offices.

Public Policy Work Plan

The Council will be reviewing project ideas from work groups at the May Retreat. Staff will set up a special meeting/teleconference to review the work plan and make necessary changes. Volunteers for this project include Jane Reagan, Todd Koopmans and Andre Robinson.

Health Issues Work Group

Members present: Kathy Reynolds, RoAnne Chaney, Theresa Arini, Carla Farcas, Paul Shaheen, Vera Graham

Staff present: Terry Hunt

Members discussed the April 13 meetings with the DD Council and its Program Committee. The council is revamping its process for establishing its meeting agenda. Under the new process, each work group will alternately be invited to recommend the council’s meeting agenda and potential meeting speakers. The council selected the Health Issues Work Group to shape the April council agenda. Additionally, the work group has been invited to present to the Program Committee regarding our concept paper. Kathy offered to be available to assist in presenting the concept paper to the Program Committee and the council.

Members discussed the April council meeting and felt a panel of speakers could provide an overview about the essential elements of an existing care coordination model - CSHCS. Paul suggested asking the CSHCS director (Kathy Stiffler) and a parent from the CSHCS Parent Participation Program. Members felt MCMCH director, Paul Shaheen, should also be on the panel to address the economic and political factors which impact this model.

Members discussed that our model can identify essential components, but cannot be rigidly structured. While costs may initially spike up when a care coordination model is first implemented, prevention and wellness services will help lower long-term expenses.

Members suggested our project evaluation must include quality of life factors and pre and post health utilization data, e.g. reduction in hospitalizations, nursing home utilization and emergency room usage, etc.

Members discussed the concept paper and the “fine tuning” changes needed to incorporate issues identified by Cheryl. Kathy and RoAnne offered to revise the paper.

Members of the work group discussed partners who can help advance implementation of the care coordination model. Members felt Paul Reinhart may be interested discussing ways to improve Medicaid financed services. Dr. George Baker, who is already considering some of the factors we also are discussing, also may be helpful.

We want to make sure our project is culturally sensitive and responsive. The Multi-cultural Committee has invited Dr. Gunnings, an East Lansing psychologist, to present at the April meeting. He can address a wide range of issues and hopefully can provide input to our concept paper.

Transportation Work Group

Members Present: Kevin Wisselink, Stu Lindsay, Angel Fandialan, Tandy Bidinger

Members Present by Phone:

L’Anse: Mick Sheridan, Pricillia Whitley, Patty Putala, Ben Ransom, Janel LaPlante, Lola Mauriacher

Jackson: Oliver Lindsay, Greg Hicok, Michael, Brenda Bobon

Newayoc: Amy Kurtii, Cathy Holt

Oscoda: Sue Parent, Bill Mahlau, Jacques Mahlau, Paul Roberts

We welcomed members and introduced ourselves. Chair Diane Kempen was absent, and Tandy Bidinger chaired the meeting at Diane’s request. The minutes from the April 8, 2004 meeting were approved.

There were some brief announcements. Member Doug Spybrook passed away recently, and the group decided to send a card. Donations were suggested to be given to the Disability Network in Flint.

At the May 11 DD Council meeting, the Transportation Work Group’s Transportation Voucher Pilot Program was approved, with some minor revisions suggested. Revisions will be made, to address issues raised by Council members such as fraud prevention, diversity, and the requirement that the projects supplement but not replace existing transportation. TWG members were very excited about the Voucher projects!

Kevin Wisselink provided the legislative update. The MI budget continues to be a major concern. Advocates have done a good job of supporting public transportation. It is important to keep up advocacy efforts. Legislators in the appropriations process are Sen. Shirley Johnson, and Sen. Tony Stamas. The federal TEA transportation reauthorization is moving slowly, and funding has been temporarily extended. The issue should be sent to a conference committee soon.

Sue Parent reported that the Iosco RICC has been very successful in communicating with their legislator, Sen. Stamas about public transportation. He mentioned their RICC at a Senate hearing. They have also been invited to bring public transportation riders to an upcoming Transit Board Meeting of their local Board of Commissioners.

The UCP Everyone Travels conference was a very successful event. There were many consumers present, and advocacy was the focus. Several TWG members attended, and some were presenters.

The MDOT Transportation Teams are still working hard on their goals. Mobility Options team is working on the perception of “poor service” in public transportation, that many people have. They are also considering gaps in service, and inadequate funding as barriers. The Communication Team has not met recently, and that is a concern, since it is an important part of the team effort. Connectivity is another group that some TWG members attend, and it is facing some challenges. There is a section on the MDOT website (www.michigan.gov/mdot) that has information about all of these teams.

The TWG has previously considered the possibility of a change in P.A. 51 to require LACs to have more consumer participation, more frequent meetings, etc. We have been asked by the MDOT Specialized Services Coordination Team (SSCT) Coordination Task Force to let them know what we decide to do about this issue. Should it be revised? Some people have expressed concerns about other changes to P.A. 51 that could also be made that would have a negative impact.

The Iosco RICC reported that their LAC meets only once per year. They would like to see a requirement of more frequent

meetings for LACs. The Jackson RICC said that their L-TAC group (a different name for an LAC) has at least four meetings per year, and they also have a special December meeting. However, they would also like to see more meetings and more “actual consumers” on the LACs. The Newaygo RICC would like more information before making a decision. The Baraga RICC believes in the value of having consumers involved. We will discuss this at future meetings.

Glenn Ashley brought information about a possible grant enhancement that would involve the UCP Transportation Project, the D.D. Council’s grantee. The enhancements being proposed involve the travel voucher program, and Land Use issues. Today, we focused on the Voucher proposed grant enhancement. Pros and cons were discussed. While some people thought that the enhancement was needed to assure a successful pilot project, others thought we have taken too long already to get the Voucher project going.

We did all agree that the TWG’s Pilot Voucher proposal should be put on a “fast track”. We will contact Dr. Tom Seekins to follow-up on our earlier conference call.

We reviewed our work plan to find out which tasks and goals we have completed. Those that we need to complete were identified, and we will concentrate on completing them by the end of the fiscal year. We did not have time to review one of the strategies: #5: Cross cultural and socio-economic lines to form alliances with other groups who are also working on transportation. We will focus on that strategy at the next meeting.